

SPECIAL EDUCATION (MAT) - GENERAL CURRICULUM

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Special Education degree is designed for individuals holding a bachelor's degree in a non-teaching field who wish to obtain a teaching certificate and master's degree in special education. The MAT provides professional and pedagogical studies that develop proficiency in the knowledge, skills, and habits of beginning teachers in one of three concentrations (i.e., general curriculum, autism, or dyslexia/reading).

All educator preparation programs are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for an educator licensure upgrade to the T-5 level. Completion of the autism concentration provides eligibility for the Georgia add-on autism endorsement. Completion of the dyslexia/reading concentration provides eligibility for the Georgia add-on dyslexia and reading endorsements.

Career Opportunities

Successful completion of the M.A.T. program and passing scores on the appropriate Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) basic skills and content tests allow the candidate to be recommended to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for teacher certification at the T-5 level (i.e., the letter "T" indicates that the certificate is in a teaching field and the number "5" indicates that the candidate's highest degree is a master's degree recognized by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission).

Program of Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Students who began in summer 2023 or fall 2023, please see the footnote below about your program of study.¹

Area 1 Program Content		
EDUF 6116	Educational Research Methods	3
SPED 6189	Nature and Characteristics of Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities	3
SPED 6265	Advanced Assessment of Exceptional Children and Youth	3
SPED 6295	Teaching Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities	3
EDRG 6148	Psychology of Reading: Understanding Readers and the Reading Process	3
EDRG 6118 or EDRG 6116	Methods and Materials for Teaching Literacy P-5 Integrating Literacy Strategies in Middle Grades and Secondary	3
Area 1 Total		18
Area 2 Concentration		
Select one of the concentration areas below:		9
Autism Concentration (Includes Autism Endorsement)		
SPED 7166	History and Characteristics of Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities	
SPED 7115	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in School Settings	

SPED 7235	Assessment and Diagnosis of Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities	
Dyslexia Concentration (Includes Dyslexia Endorsement)		
SPED 6125	Managing Students with Behavioral Problems	
SPED 6136	History and Characteristics of Individuals with Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities	
SPED 6137	Assessment and intervention of Individuals with Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities	
General Curriculum Concentration		
SPED 6125	Managing Students with Behavioral Problems	
Based on your grade band and content focus, select 6 hours from the following:		
ELEM 6125	Developing Mathematical Thinking in the Elementary Classroom	
ELEM 6135	Developing Scientific Thinking in Young Children	
ELEM 6145	Exploring the World with Young Learners	
EDCI 6118	Teaching Composition in Grades 4-12	
EDSE 6116	Teaching English Language Arts in Grades 4-12	
EDSE 6145	Teaching Social Studies in Grades 4-12	
EDMT 6215	Methods in Teaching Middle and Secondary Mathematics	
EDSC 6215	Methods of Teaching Middle and Secondary Science	
Area 2 Total		9
Area 3 The Practice of Education		
EDUC 6699	Teaching Residency and Classroom Management	3
Area 3 Total		3
Other Requirement		
EDUF 6000	M.Ed. Exit Examination	0
Other Requirement Total		0
Total Credit Hours		30

¹ Readers of CSU's 2023-2024 catalog might have noticed some fluctuations in this program of study since the catalog draft appeared online in Spring 2023. The faculty proposed a 30-hour program of study for what has been approved as a 48-52 hour program. The 30-hour program of study should first be approved by our institutional accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), for an anticipated implementation in January 2024.

Due to an administrative error, the program of study in the 2023-2024 catalog was temporarily changed to 30 credit hours and some students were prematurely placed on the 30-hour program of study in DegreeWorks. The catalog has been corrected to reflect the approved program of study, but CSU will honor the 30-hour program of study in DegreeWorks for the affected students. Students admitted to the program for Spring 2024 will need to follow the official, approved program of study as it appears in the catalog. If we receive the anticipated approval from SACSCOC, the 2023-2024 catalog program of study will be updated to reflect the 30-hour requirement.

We expect to receive SACSCOC's decision by mid-December 2023 and anticipate being able to implement the 30-hour program of study in January 2024. We're optimistic that the request will be approved since the program of study accounts for policies at the institutional and university system levels and meets GaPSC requirements for teaching certification and SACSCOC accreditation standards.

Please contact the program coordinator, Dr. Kalynn Pistorio, by email at pistorio_kalynn@columbusstate.edu or phone at 706-565-1426 with any questions you have.

Program Admission Requirements

- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 (regular admission) or 2.50 (provisional admission) on all undergraduate work at an accredited United States institution in fulfillment of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree.
- Statement of Professional Interest and Goals
- Resume

Teacher Education Admission Requirements

- Candidates must apply for Teacher Education during their first semester, after being admitted and starting classes.
- Admission to Teacher Education is completed through TK20. Candidates must have been admitted into the university and registered for courses at least two weeks before purchasing TK20. Information on Tk20 is located at: <https://www.columbusstate.edu/education-and-health-professions/tk20.php>
- Candidates must meet all requirements for admission to Teacher Education during their first semester of enrollment in the MAT program. For a list of requirements visit <https://cqt1.columbusstate.edu/teacher-education.php>

Additional Program Requirements

- Students must earn a 3.0 GPA calculated on all graduate work attempted. "Academic Forgiveness" policy does not apply to graduate studies
- Students cannot graduate with a grade of "C" in more than two (2) courses
- Courses earned with grades of "D" may not be used toward a graduate degree or certificate, but will be calculated in the overall grade point average.
- A minimum of 20 hours of the hours required for the degree must be earned in residence (# of the required hours). Asynchronous (online) and distance learning courses administered through Columbus State University constitute courses taken in residence
- Transfer courses must be approved by the students' advisor and program coordinator. Courses with earned grades of "C" or below cannot be transferred.
- All degree requirements must be completed within seven (7) years of first enrollment.